

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Brief History of Noted Politicians in the United States.

MANY MEN OF PROMINENCE

Annecdotes Related By Politicians and College Professors of Incidents in their Official Careers of Interest to Readers of The Astorian.



INTEREST is taken in the new labor commissioner of New York state, Philemon Tecumseh Sherman, because he is the son of the gallant soldier of the civil war who coined the immortal phrase "War is hell." But the fact that General William T. Sherman was his father is not his only claim upon the public interest. He has made a reputation of his own on quite different lines from that of the general. He is a student of municipal and sociological questions, has written a book entitled "Inside the Machine," has been prominent in the municipal reform work of the Citizens' Union in New York and was elected a member of the board of aldermen on the Citizens' Union ticket, serving in the years 1888 and 1889. He is classed as an independent Republican in politics.

Mr. Sherman was born in St. Louis Jan. 9, 1867, graduated from the St. Louis university in 1886 and studied at Yale for two years thereafter. He took a course in law at the law school of Columbia university and was admitted to the bar and has since practiced his profession in New York. Mr. Sherman is thought to bear a strong resemblance to his brave and honored sire.

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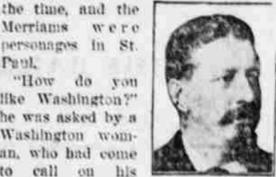
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Herman Wise

with a low bow and asked: "Has anybody a flask?"



When ex-Governor and ex-officer of the Census William R. Merriam first visited Washington he was a snickerbocker and had left a note with his grandmother. His father was governor at the time, and the Merriams were personages in St. Paul.

Some friends had drawn Professor Reiss of Columbia university into talking about astronomy. The waiter in the club where the talk occurred was as deeply interested as the rest; still he wondered. Finally he mustered up courage and said: "I beg your pardon, professor. I think I can understand how you can measure and find out how far the stars are away, but will you please tell me how you found out their names?"

Connecticut has lost two veteran statesmen within a twelvemonth. Senator Joseph R. Hawley and Senator Orville H. Platt. Ex-Governor Morgan G. Bulkeley was chosen to succeed Senator Hawley, and Frank Bosworth Brandegee of New London was recently selected by the Connecticut legislature to fill the unexpired term of Senator Platt, which has four years more to run.



Senator Elect Brandegee. He was born in New London, July 8, 1864, and went to Yale university, where he achieved distinction by pulling bow oar in the varsity crew, has always been athletic and is of handsome appearance and has genial manners. He has practiced law in New London since 1888, has been corporation attorney of the city and a member of the Connecticut house of representatives, of which he was speaker in 1890. Senator Elect Brandegee has a reputation as a brilliant lawyer and as an orator of marked talent.

When Congressman Nicholas Longworth of Ohio, who is said to be much interested in Miss Alice Roosevelt, was a student at Harvard college he was on a certain occasion introduced to the poet Longfellow. Grasping Mr. Longworth by the hand, Mr. Longfellow immediately said, "Here is an instance where 'worth makes the man, the want of it the fellow.'"

It is said that an expert knowledge of theology is possessed by Amzi Lorenzo Barber, the asphalt magnate whose name has been brought into the Bowen-Loomis controversy through his assertion that the asphalt trust financed the Matos revolution in Venezuela. Mr. Barber was at the head of the trust some years ago. He was a college professor before he went into the business of paving streets and taught natural philosophy to the young men of the Columbian university at Washington. He graduated from that ill paid occupation and in manufacturing pavement became a multimillionaire and a yacht owner. It was at a gathering of yachtsmen that Mr. Barber's knowledge of theological subjects was once put to the test. A clubman excused himself for saying "all hell broke loose" on the ground that he was quoting Milton, line 915, book 4, "Paradise Lost." Another clubman vouched for the accuracy of the statement. Still another asked, "Who first said 'hell is paved with good intentions?'"

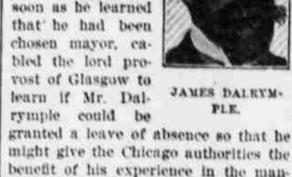


Every one looked at Barber, who quickly replied, with a twinkle in his eye: "Dr. Johnson; but there was no asphalt in his day."

Professor James Stillman of Stevens Institute is the possessor of several degrees from various institutes of learning, says the New York Times. He often relates with pride, however, that he once received two in one day. On the day that he received his Ph. D. he also received that degree of degrees of which he is most proud, D. A. D.

The declaration of Chicago for municipal ownership in the recent election of Judge Edward F. Dunne as mayor and the changes in transit arrangements impending in consequence of this result lend interest to the visit to

this country of James Dalrymple, general manager of the tramway lines of Glasgow, Scotland.



In Glasgow the tramway lines are owned and operated by the municipality, and it was on this account that Judge Dunne, as soon as he learned that he had been chosen mayor, cabled the lord provost of Glasgow to learn if Mr. Dalrymple could be granted a leave of absence so that he might give the Chicago authorities the benefit of his experience in the management of street car lines under the system of municipal ownership. Leave was granted, and he began preparations for his American trip. During his stay he will be the guest of several societies advocating the municipal ownership idea. Mr. Dalrymple is a graduate of the University of Glasgow, a member of various learned societies and the author of several works of a scientific and historical nature.

De Wolf Hopper, who last winter gave Canadians an opportunity of seeing the elaborate revival of "Wang," is not fond of cold weather. While in Canada he wrote to a friend in New York: "It is slaying. My only parallel for it is a cold room, with a nude man sitting on a cake of ice, his feet out of the window and his hands violently agitating a few bells. The only thing lacking in this simile as far as I know is the bump at the end."

It is said of Francis C. Hendricks, superintendent of insurance of the state of New York, who has been called on to look into the affairs of the Equitable Life Assurance society, that everything he has had in the way of political preference has come to him without the appearance of his lifting a finger to get it. He amassed a fortune before he went into politics, and when he found that he had time to devote to public affairs one office after another came to him in almost continuous succession. He was born in Kingston, N. Y., in 1831 and in 1861 settled in Syracuse, which he has since made his home and of which he has been alderman, fire commissioner and mayor. He served two terms as an assemblyman, three terms as state senator and in 1891 was appointed collector of the port of New York. In January, 1900, the term of Louis F. Payn as superintendent of insurance was about to expire and much pressure was brought to bear on Theodore Roosevelt, then governor of New York, to reappoint him. He refused to do so, however, and in his place named Mr. Hendricks. The episode was the subject of much comment at the time.



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